DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VIII NO. 3 January 30th 1959 Price: 15 Pf, 5c., 3d.

1959 - LEAP YEAR

Everything But Prices Going Up in Democratic Germany

Overall production in the German Democratic Republic is planned to leap upwards by over 11% in 1959, under the terms of the 1959 Economic Plan approved by the People's Chamber on January 21st. The increase in production will find an immediate reflection in the shops: eleven percent more consumer goods will be available for purchase by the population.

This big new quantity of goods will mean that each average family will be able to buy about 1000 marks worth more in the shops; this sum will buy a refrigerator, a new pair of shoes for each member of the family, five pairs of Perlon stockings, and 24 more visits to the cinema for the whole family.

The 1959 Economic Plan, with its forecast of an 11% allround production increase, shows that industrial production in the Democratic Republic is growing at a faster rate than in any capitalist country today. Observers in Berlin had no doubt that the plan would be fulfilled in all essential points, since previous plans have always proved realistic.

Particular attention will be paid to increasing the output of consumer goods: refrigerator and TV set production will go up over 60%, there will be 33% more cars, and increases of over 50% in wool and Perlon textiles.

Housing too is moving into a top priority position in the new plan: during 1959 a total of 91,000 housing units will be completed, compared to 62,000 in 1958.

Foreign trade, already flourishing, will be expanded again in the current year, and greatly increased exports both to east and west will enable considerable increases in the imports of high-grade foodstuffs. Citrus fruits, cocoa, coffee and cheese will all be imported in quantities ranging from 20% to 50% above the 1958 level.

Although the 1959 Economic Plan lays such great emphasis on consumer goods which will immediately raise the standard of living, long-term investment has not been neglected. There will be enormous new investments, particularly in the chemical industry, but these investments will mainly be for long-term projects which will not pay off for several years. This is shown by the fact that investment in the chemical industry, already one of Democratic Germany's main industries, will increase by nearly 40%, though production in the chemical industry will increase less than 10%.

"We Are Ready to Negotiate"

Democratic Germany Offers Peace Treaty Talks

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has made a formal offer to the West German Government to open negotiations on the conclusion of a peace treaty with the allies. The offer was made by Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht on January 21st.

Addressing the People's Chamber, Deputy Prime Minister Ulbricht said:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic hereby formally requests the Government of the German Federal Republic to join in negotiations on the preparation of a peace conference and the drafting of a peace treaty. Even if we only reach agreement on a few basic points of national policy this will make it much easier to conclude a peace treaty.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is also ready to discuss the question of a peace treaty with the parties and democratic organisations of West Germany, in particular the trade unions. Members of the Government of the German Democratic Republic will hold themselves in readiness for such discussions."

At the conclusion of Walter Ulbricht's official government statement the People's Chamber unanimously passed a resolution welcoming the government's attitude, and greeted the Draft Peace Treaty submitted by the Soviet Union on January 10th. **(The full text of the Soviet Draft for a Peace Treaty is printed on pages 21—24 of this issue.)**

In his government declaration the Deputy Prime Minister recall-

ed that in 1952 the German Democratic Republic had proposed to the Four Powers the conclusion of a peace treaty. "At that time, before West Germany was remilitarised, we were ready to make an agreement with the Bonn Government on the holding of all-German free elections", Walter Ulbricht said.

"Both the Bonn Government and the western powers turned the suggestion down, because they believed that a policy of rearmament in West Germany would produce conditions which would make it possible to bring the whole of Germany under the domination of finance capital. The West German imperialists and militarists have developed their programme of revenge and anti-Communism, and have deepened the partitioning of Germany. They have conjured up the great danger that a Third World War, an atomic war on German soil, may be provoked by West Germany.

"The Soviet Government and the governments of the other socialist countries have repeatedly warned that this development must not continue. The limit has now been reached."

The Deputy Prime Minister then outlined the main clauses of the Soviet Draft Peace Treaty, and laid particular stress on the fact that under the terms of this peace treaty Germany would be deprived once and for all of such aggressive weapons as the atom-bomb, and that the German militarists would no longer have the chance of plunging the world into a new war.

"The ban on nuclear weapons laid down in the Draft Peace Treaty would mean the creation of an atom-free zone in Central Europe, a solution which is supported by the majority of the population in East and West Germany.

"American Secretary of State Dulles has rejected the Draft Peace Treaty on the grounds that a Germany which was not a member of NATO would be isolated and a danger for its neighbours. This is a very peculiar argument. Mr Dulles does not think that a West Germany included in NATO and lusting for war is a danger to its neighbours; but he believes that a peaceable Germany which has renounced all policies of conquest would be a danger. What does Mr Dulles mean by 'isolated'? After the conclusion of a peace treaty the militarists would naturally be isolated, but a peaceable and neutral state is never isolated. On the contrary a neutral state is honoured and valued.

"Does anyone claim that India is isolated, or that Sweden and Austria are isolated because they do not belong to NATO?"

Walter Ulbricht stressed that the Draft Peace Treaty did not lay down conditions about the social system which should exist in Germany. "The Peace Treaty will not mean any alteration in the existence and the development of the socialist social system in the German Democratic Republic, and it will not mean any alteration in the capitalist social system in West Germany. It is thus acceptable to both socialists and capitalists.

"A peace treaty would make it easier for the two German states to reach reunification by way of confederation. The joint rights and duties imposed by the peace treaty would in fact act as a clamp to hold Germany together and to prevent the two German states from growing further away from each other." **(More news on proposals for a German Confederation will be found in a box on this page.)**

Walter Ulbricht then turned to the question of the frontiers of Germany as laid down in the Draft Peace Treaty. "The frontiers of Germany as they have existed for the past 14 years are a direct result of the aggressive policy of conquest of German imperialism. These frontiers were laid down by the three Great Powers as a result of Hitler's imperialist aggressions. The new frontiers cannot be changed, not even by war.

"It is therefore in the peaceful interests of the German people to accept the Oder-Neisse frontier. The USA and Britain themselves helped to work out this frontier, and have publicly approved them. They agreed to and helped to organise the resettlement of the Germans from the territories in question. Only when the construction of socialism began in Poland and Czechoslovakia did the western powers sometimes give their support to the West German revenge politicians.

"Nobody can be so foolish as to believe that the people of the USA, Britain, France, Belgium and Holland would be ready to allow themselves to be dragged into a war aimed at altering these frontiers which have existed for 14 years. Even the millionaire press in West Germany must admit that in the frontier question a peace treaty drafted by the western powers would scarcely

CONFEDERATION PLAN OUTLINED

More detailed plans for the mooted German Confederation were outlined by Walter Ulbricht, Democratic Germany's Deputy Prime Minister at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party on January 17th.

He suggested that the supreme organ of the Confederation should be an All-German Council composed of 100 members, half nominated by the parliament of the German Democratic Republic and half by the parliament of the German Federal Republic.

The two states would maintain their sovereignty and equality of rights, and the All-German Council would have only advisory rights without executive power. Matters to be dealt with by the Council could include the following:

- Questions connected with the peace treaty.
- Trade agreements with foreign states.
- Membership in international organisations.
- Establishment of the strength of the armed forces of the two German states, and the ending of conscription in West Germany.

differ from the proposals made by the Soviet Union.

"Fourteen years after the end of the war, Germany still has no peace treaty. Peace treaties were concluded nearly 12 years ago with Germany's former allies Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland. These treaties too contained in some cases painful territorial changes and limitations in the question of armaments. These peace treaties contained clauses about reparations, something which will no longer play a part in the peace treaty with Germany. All these countries won, twelve years ago, peace, non-intervention in their internal affairs, and the right to participate on an equal basis in international life.

"With Austria the business took a little longer, but Austria too has now had its peace treaty for four years. Austria too was subjected to limitations on arms, measures against fascist activities and so on, clauses which now appear in the Draft Peace Treaty for Germany. The example of Austria shows particularly well the advantages of a renunciation of aggressive military alliances directed against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries."

The Deputy Prime Minister then dealt at some length on the question of West Berlin.

"We are ready to agree to the status of West Berlin as a Free City, and we shall naturally respect such a status. We are ready to guarantee the communications of West Berlin with the east and the west, and are ready to provide in a formal agreement guarantees for the unhindered use of the railways, roads and waterways of the German Democratic Republic. We are also ready to make an agreement guaranteeing the West Berlin Free City air communications with other states.

"If West Berlin is converted into a Free City we shall do everything to ensure a normal economic development for West Berlin. We are ready to see to it that West Berlin factories get the necessary orders: we could employ a considerable number of West Berlin workers in our factories.

"As is well known, the Soviet Union has announced its intention of handing over to the German Democratic Republic those functions which it still exercises under the Four Power Agreements on Berlin. These are such functions as the control of the traffic through the German Democratic Republic of the military garrisons of the western powers stationed in West Berlin. We are prepared to take over these functions, and we are preparing ourselves for this task.

"In this connection we must reject most strongly the propaganda assertions that this step would lead to any form of blockade of West Berlin. For a long time now authorities of the German Democratic Republic have supervised the traffic of passengers and goods across its territory, including traffic from the USA, Britain and France, and there have never been any difficulties. It is clear that the transfer to the German Democratic Republic of supervisory functions over the traffic of the military garrisons of the Three Powers cannot sharpen the situation; always under the condition, of course, that the representatives of the USA, Britain and France pay due respect to the sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic."

MORE DETAILS ON BERLIN

Deputy Prime Minister Clarifies Details in United Press Interview

Details of the attitude of the German Democratic Republic towards the Berlin situation and the future of Germany were given by Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht in an interview on January 23rd with Joe Fleming, West Berlin correspondent of United Press International. Here, in slightly condensed form, are the questions and answers on the Berlin situation:

Question: *The Government of the German Democratic Republic declared its readiness to negotiate with the western powers on access to West Berlin following the handing over of control. What kind of negotiations do you visualize?*

Answer: After all the control functions have been handed over to us by the USSR — by the end of May — representatives of the western powers and of the government of Democratic Germany should meet to consider and adopt measures on the use of transportation routes to West Berlin which belong to the German Democratic Republic. The sooner this happens, the better can difficulties be avoided.

Question: *Would such negotiations mean diplomatic recognition of the German Democratic Republic in your view and will you insist on such recognition?*

Answer: The most reasonable solution would be for the western powers applying to use the territory and air space of the Democratic Republic to recognize us diplomatically. Recognition must come sooner or later; why not now when the western powers want something from us? But we would not insist on this; we are patient. The name given to such negotiations is not important. The main thing is to understand that without respecting the German Democratic Republic and negotiating with us it is not possible to request anything from us or to receive anything from us. If the western powers act correctly, we for our part shall act correctly too. If this is done by both sides, there will be no difficulties.

Question: *In case of such negotiations, would the German Democratic Republic grant the western powers the same rights of access to West Berlin as they have at present?*

Answer: It is possible to reach an understanding about everything if the western powers approach the matter correctly and according to international law. However, we do not like threats and blackmail. We either do not react to them at all or we react sharply.

Question: *In a speech in West Berlin, Hermann Matern declared that the air traffic of the western airlines to West Berlin is illegal. Would the German Democratic Republic permit such flights after taking over control?*

Answer: Once we have taken over control, civil airlines wishing to fly over our territory would have to conclude agreements with us in accordance with the usual international air traffic regulations. Our

civil aircraft could not fly over the USA without Washington's permission, either.

Question: *The western powers have declared that they cannot agree to making West Berlin a demilitarised "Free City" and that they will not withdraw their troops from West Berlin. What will happen on May 30th when the term set by the Soviet government for agreeing on a new arrangement expires?*

Answer: If there is no new agreement by May 30th, the question of a free city will remain on the political agenda until the question has been solved. And it must ultimately be solved, because it is simply impossible to tolerate for long a centre of war danger in West Berlin. We are prepared to respect in every way the status of a demilitarised free city in West Berlin and not to interfere directly or indirectly in any way in its affairs. The same must naturally be done by the Federal Government and all other powers. What will certainly happen by May 30th is that the USSR will hand over to the appropriate authorities of the German Democratic Republic the rights derived from the Four-Power Agreements on Berlin which are at present exercised by the USSR. This refers to such functions as the control of traffic through our territory of personnel and goods of the military garrisons of the three western powers stationed in West Berlin.

Question: *Would the German Democratic Republic's rejection of foreign troops stationed on German territory extend to a possible detachment of UN member states, which might perhaps represent and symbolise the UN guarantees for West Berlin suggested by the Soviet Union?*

Answer: I presume you mean that **after** the withdrawal of all occupation troops from West Berlin and **after** converting West Berlin into a demilitarised free city, a detachment from UN member-states should be present in **West Berlin.** We are not yet in the UN, but we believe that even without such a detachment, the status of a demilitarised free city would be sufficiently guaranteed by international agreements. As regards any UN representation in West Berlin, this will have to be thought over and examined. Decisive for us is that West Berlin no longer remains a cancerous growth. We shall not drop this demand.

GROTEWOHL-NEHRU TALKS

Fruitful talks with Prime Minister Nehru on peace and the German problem marked the five-day visit to India by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic. At the conclusion of his visit Grotewohl said:

"We both agreed that it is necessary to settle international disputes step by step and by peaceful negotiation. Any attempt to force one's will on another can lead to no solution and would increase present tensions. Every attempt should be welcomed which aims at bringing, on the basis of such principles, the conclusion of a peace treaty nearer. The German problem should be settled in the same manner by peaceful negotiations."

During his visit, Herr Grotewohl talked with Mr Nehru at two long afternoon meetings and on two other occasions. He also met with India's President, Dr Rajendra Prasad and with the Vice President, Dr Radhakrishnan.

Included in the Indian visit, the first ever made by a German Prime Minister, were visits to Calcutta, Agra and several agricultural communities and important building sites

On January 17th, Grotewohl and his group flew to Hanoi in Viet Nam, the last leg of their trip before reaching Peking.

The Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" credited the trip as a "prestige success". It received first page treatment in the Indian press.

Aid for Algerians

Thirteen Algerian foot and leg amputees, veterans of the fight for independence in their country, landed on January 22nd in Berlin. They will receive medical care in hospitals of the German Democratic Republic. Trade unions here have arranged for 400 hospital beds to be placed at the disposal of future groups of wounded veterans from Algeria.

Red Cross Cooperation

The Red Cross Societies in East and West Germany will cooperate on the basis of their common interest in the maintenance of peace and, the banning of weapons of mass destruction, stated an official communique issued by the two Red Cross Societies on January 20th.

ROCKET PROTEST

The city council of Dortmund protested unanimously on January 18th against the stationing of British atom rockets in the vicinity of the city. The British 47th Rocket Regiment, equipped with Corporal rockets, which can be fitted with a nuclear or conventional warhead, is scheduled to move to Dortmund in the near future.

The resolution of protest received the unanimous support of the 40 Social Democrats, 22 Christian Democrats and 4 Free Democrats on the city council.

Franz Josef Strauss, West German Defence Minister, announced on January 6th that two rocket launching pads for "Honest John" rockets had now been taken over by the West Germany Wehrmacht. The Honest John is a short range rocket which carries a nuclear warhead.

Lippmann Moots Confederation

Walter Lippmann, senior US political commentator, mooted the possibility of a confederation as a step towards German unity in his regular column in the "New York Herald Tribune" on January 17th.

"It is necessary to proceed to the reunification of Germany, which, if I understand him correctly, is what Mr Dulles has decidede that he must try to do," Mr Lippmann stated.

"If that is our purpose, there is no reason why German reunification should not begin with a provisional regime — that of a dual state with some common political institutions — under a pact or constitution which promised that there should be a gradual integration over a period of years, culminating in a free election to elect a constituent assembly, which would form an all-German state."

Some form of confederation between the two existing German states as a first step towards the solution of the German problem was first proposed by the Government of the German Democratic Republic in July 1957.

Officials To Work

All full-time officials of the Socialist Unity Party will in future be obliged to do at least one month's manual work every year in industry or agriculture, the Central Committee of the Party decided on January 17th. The Central Committee recommended office workers in the civil service and trade unions to volunteer for similar terms of manual work.

DRAFT TEXT FOR A PEACE TREATY

On January 10th 1959 the Soviet Union proposed that the time had come for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, and at the same time submitted the draft of such a peace treaty. The treaty should be signed on the one hand by the Allied and Associated Powers — that is to say those states which played an active part in the military defeat of Hitlerite Germany — and on the other side by "Germany, at present represented by the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic (or, if at the time of the signature of the peace treaty a German Confederation has been established, then by the German Confederation as well as the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic)."

The draft peace treaty lists the Allied and Associated Powers as follows: USSR, United Kingdom, USA, France, Australia, Albania, Belgium, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, India, Italy, Canada, China, Luxemburg, Holland, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Rumania, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and South Africa.

Here are the main clauses of the draft peace treaty

PART I: POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL CLAUSES

I. Peace and peaceful relations

Article 1

The Allied and Associated Powers, on the one side, and Germany, on the other side, declare and confirm the ending of the state of war and the establishment of peaceful relations between them . . .

Article 2

Until Germany is united in some form or other, the term Germany in this treaty denotes the two existing German states — the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, and all the rights and obligations of Germany, stipulated by this treaty, shall be equally binding on the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Article 3

The Allied and Associated Powers recognize the full sovereignty of the German people over Germany, including its territorial waters and air space.

Article 4

1. The Allied and Associated Powers declare that they will cultivate their relations with Germany on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Germany, non-interference in its domestic affairs, non-aggression, equality and mutual benefit, and in conformity with the clauses of this treaty.

Germany shall be guided by the same principles in its relations with all countries

2. Germany assumes the obligation of settling its international disputes by peaceful measures only, so that international peace and security will not be threatened Germany undertakes the pledge to refrain in its international relations from the threat of force or the use of force against the territorial inviolability or political independence of all countries, and not to give aid or support to any country or group of countries which violates international peace and security

Article 5

1. Germany undertakes not to enter any military alliance directed against any country which is party to the present treaty and also not to take part in military alliances which do not include all the four principal allied powers of the anti-Hitler coalition — the USSR, the USA, the United Kingdom and France.

2. The Allied and Associated Powers will respect Germany's obligation to refrain from joining the military alliances defined in Paragraph 1 and will refrain from all actions concerning Germany which might entail a direct or indirect violation of this obligation by Germany

3. The Allied and Associated Powers will take all steps necessary to enable Germany to take part on an equal basis in measures which strengthen all-European security and which aim at the creation of a security system based on the common efforts of the countries of Europe.

4. With the entry into force of this treaty, Germany — the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany — will be freed from obligations arising from membership in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the North Atlantic Treaty and West European Union, respectively

Article 6

Germany recognizes the full validity of the Peace Treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Rumania and Finland

Article 7

After this treaty enters into force, the Allied and Associated Powers will support Germany's application for membership in the United Nations Organisation

II. Frontiers

Article 8

The frontiers of Germany shall be those existing on January 1st 1959

Until Germany is reunited into one state the territories of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany shall be delimited by the line existing on January 1st, 1959

Article 9

In accordance with the Potsdam Agreement of 1945,

a) Germany shall renounce all rights or claims to former German territories east of a line running from the Baltic Sea immediately west of Swinemunde, and thence along the Oder River to the confluence of the western Neisse River and along the western Neisse to the Czechoslovak frontier, including Danzig and a part of former East Prussia, which are under the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Poland, as recognized by Germany.

b) Germany shall renounce all rights and claims to the former city of Koenigsberg and the area around it, which are under the sovereignty of the USSR, as recognized by Germany

Article 10

Germany recognizes as invalid the Munich Agreement with all the results therefrom and declares that it will always recognize territory of the former so-called Sudeten region as an integral part of the national territory of the Czechoslovak Republic

Article 11

Germany recognizes that the territory of Alsace-Lorraine is an integral part of the French Republic. The Saar region forms part of the territory of Germany

Article 12

Germany confirms and recognizes the changes and the determination of its frontiers as decided in treaties made with its neighbours in the period between May 1945 and January 1st 1959

III. Germany and Austria

Article 13

1. Germany recognizes the full validity of the state treaty re-establishing an independent and democratic Austria of May 15th 1955 and the prohibition of Anschluss it contains.

2. In accord therewith Germany will respect the sovereignty and independence of Austria and renounces all territorial and political claims with regard to Austria and Austrian territory

3. Germany recognizes the permanent neutrality of Austria in the form laid down in the Federal Constitutional Law of Austria, adopted by the Austrian Parliament on October 26th 1955, and pledges itself to respect this.

4. To prevent the danger of Anschluss, every form of political or economic union between Germany and Austria shall be forbidden Germany accepts completely its responsibility in this question and will not join any form of political or economic union with Austria.

Germany may not make any treaty with Austria or undertake any actions or measures which would directly or indirectly encourage a political or economic union between it and Austria, or which might injure the territorial integrity. the political or economic independence of Austria.

Germany also pledges itself not to allow any kind of actions on its territory which might directly or indirectly further such a union, and it must prevent the existence, rebirth and activity of all organisations whose goal is a political or economic union with Austria and propaganda for a union with Austria

IV. Basic Human Rights and Freedoms

Article 14

1. Germany pledges itself to take all measures which are necessary to guarantee that all persons under German jurisdiction shall enjoy, regardless of differences in race, sex, language, religion, nationality, land of origin or political belief, human rights and basic freedoms including personal freedom, freedom of speech, press and publication, of religion, of political opinion. of organisation and public assembly

2. Germany also guarantees that no laws valid in its territory shall either in content or practice discriminate or cause discrimination against any German citizens because of race, sex, language, religion, nationality, land of origin, political belief or party membership, whether in regard to their person, their possessions, their activities. their professional or financial interests, their status, their political or citizenship rights or in any other way

3. The previous membership of a German citizen in the National Socialist Party or its branches or any organisations under its control can not be the basis for the restriction of the rights and freedoms listed in Paragraph 1, if such person has not been restricted in his rights by a court decision.

4. Persons of German nationality who were resettled in Germany from other countries according to the provisions of the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 shall enjoy on German territory, as equal German citizens, all rights mentioned in Paragraph 1 without any discrimination

Article 15

Forbidden are all forms of persecution or oppression by the German authorities or German citizens against any person on grounds that this person during World War II helped the Allied and Associated Powers or sympathised with their cause or because this person acted, before this treaty entered into force, towards the easier fulfilment of the common decisions of the USSR the USA, the United Kingdom and France with regard to Germany or of any proclamations, orders, instructions or directions issued on the basis of these decisions

V. Political Parties and Other Organisations

Article 16

Germany will guarantee the right to free activity of political parties and other organisations, with the exception of the parties and organisations listed in Articles 13, 17 and 18, and the rights of the former to decide freely their own affairs, to hold congresses and

meetings, and to enjoy freedom of the press and of publishing

Article 17

Germany pledges itself not to permit, under threat of penal punishment, the revival, existence, and activity of the National Socialist Party, organisations affiliated to it or under its control in German territory, including political, military and paramilitary organisations, as well as the emergence and activity of other similar parties and organisations and, specifically, revanchist parties and organisations demanding a revision of Germany's frontiers or making territorial claims on other countries

Article 18

Germany pledges itself to dissolve and not to permit, under threat of penal punishment, the existence and activity in its territory of any organisations, including emigrant bodies, conducting hostile activity against any of the Allied and Associated Powers.

Germany shall not grant political asylum to persons who belong to the above organisations

VI. Other Clauses

Article 19

Germany recognizes the decision of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg and the sentences of other courts regarding the crimes committed inside and outside of Germany defined in the statutes of this Tribunal

Article 20

Germany pledges itself not to permit any form of propaganda aimed at or capable of creating or aggravating a threat to peace, violating peace or at an act of aggression, including war propaganda, as well as all kinds of revenge-seeking demands for a revision of Germany's frontiers or territorial claims against other countries

Article 21

1. Germany shall support with all possible measures the repatriation to their homes of citizens of the Allied and Associated Powers who were driven to Germany on account of the war.

2. The Allied and Associated Powers shall for their part, where this has not yet taken place, support in the same manner the repatriation to Germany of those German citizens who were driven to the territories of the Allied and Associated Powers on account of the war

3. The Allied Powers pledge, so far as they have not yet done this, to return to Germany within six months after this treaty enters into force all German specialists who during and after the war were forced to leave Germany. The clauses of this article do not include those persons who left Germany on their own wish

PART II: CLAUSES PERTAINING TO THE REESTABLISHMENT OF GERMAN UNITY

Article 22

The Allied and Associated Powers recognize the right of the German people to the restoration of Germany's unity and express their readiness to render both German states every assistance in achieving this goal on the basis of a rapprochement and agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Both German states as also the Allied and Associated Powers regard this treaty as an important contribution towards the uniting of Germany in accord with the national aspirations of the German people and in the interest of guaranteeing security in Europe and in the entire world

Article 23

In consideration of the fact that every attempt to solve the question of reuniting Germany by force would bring about a war which would bring immeasurable misery to the people of Europe and especially to the German people themselves, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany solemnly undertake never to resort to force or threat of force for achieving the reunification of Germany and to settle by peaceful means all disputes that may arise in the relations between them

Article 24

This treaty will remain in force after the reunification of Germany and its clauses will extend to the united German state

Article 25

Until the reunification of Germany and the creation of a united German state, West Berlin will receive the status of a demilitarised Free City on the basis of a special statute

PART III: MILITARY CLAUSES

Article 26

Germany shall possess such national armed forces (land, air and sea forces) as are necessary for national defence

Article 27

Service in the German armed forces is forbidden to:

a) persons who have been sentenced for crimes against peace, against humanity and because of war crimes by the courts of those countries which were at war with Germany or by German courts;

b) persons who are not German citizens

c) persons of other than German nationality who were driven to Germany during and after the war, regardless of whether they later have or have not assumed German citizenship

Article 28

Germany may not have, produce, acquire or experiment with:

a) any kind of nuclear weapon or other means of mass destruction including biological and chemical weapons;

b) any kind of rockets or guided missiles or apparatus and installations for their launching or guidance;

c) aircraft designed mainly as bombers and having bomb and shell racks;

d) submarines

Article 29

It is forbidden for Germany to have, produce, acquire, or maintain production capacity for the manufacture of war material, weapons and implements, whether through

state, private or other channels, in greater quantity than for the needs of the armed forces allowed in Article 26 of this treaty or to export any war material, weapons or implements to other countries.

Article 30

All foreign troops now stationed in Germany shall be withdrawn from Germany not later than within one year after the coming into force of this treaty.

(Or: After the coming into force of the present treaty all foreign troops stationed in Germany shall be withdrawn from Germany within time limits to be agreed upon by the parties concerned so that within six months of the coming into force of the treaty the numerical strength of foreign troops on German territory shall be reduced by one third.)

Simultaneously with the withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany all foreign military bases on German territory shall be closed down.

In the future Germany shall not permit the stationing of any foreign armed forces nor any foreign military bases on its territory.

Article 31

Germany pledges itself to respect, protect and care for the graves of military personnel, war prisoners and citizens forcibly brought to Germany from the countries which were at war with Germany, as well as the monuments and emblems on the graves and monuments to the military glory of the armies which fought against Hitler-Germany, which are situated on German territory.

The Allied and Associated Powers for their part shall guarantee the care for the recognizable graves of German military personnel on their territories.

PART IV: ECONOMIC CLAUSES

Article 32

No restrictions shall be imposed on Germany as regards development of its peace economy, which is to promote the welfare of the German people.

Nor shall Germany be in any way restricted in her trade with other countries, in navigation or in access to world markets

Article 33—38

(These articles deal with property questions, debts and financial claims arising from the war or the occupation.)

Article 39

1. Germany shall be willing to enter into negotiations with all the Allied and Associated Powers and to sign trade and navigation treaties or pacts, whereby all of the Allied and Associated Powers shall be granted a most favoured nation position on the basis of mutuality.

2. Germany shall allow no discrimination or artificial hindrance in connection with its trade with every one of the Allied and Associated Powers. The Allied and Associated Powers for their part will hold to the same principle in their trade with Germany.

3. Germany shall not allow any one country any kind of exclusive or discriminatory rights inside its borders in connection with the use of commercial airplanes in international transportation, it shall guarantee the same possibilities on the basis of mutuality to the Allied and Associated Powers for the acquiring of rights in the field of international commercial air transportation on German territory, including the right to land for refueling or repair. These clauses may not prejudice the interests of the national defence of Germany.

Article 40

(Article 40 guarantees transit rights for Austria across small tongues of German territory.)

PART V: REPARATIONS AND RESTITUTION

Article 41

The question of the payment of reparations by Germany in compensation for the damage inflicted on the Allied and Associated Powers during the war shall be regarded as completely settled, and the Allied and Associated Powers waive all claims to further reparation payments by Germany.

Article 42

Germany pledges, in all cases where this has not yet occurred, to return in good condition identifiable objects having artistic, historical or archeological value which belong to the cultural heritage of the Allied and Associated Powers and which were taken from their territories to Germany under force or compulsion.

Claims for the restitution of the above-named objects may be presented within 12 months after this treaty enters into force.

Germany shall also give to those countries to whom parts of the former territory of Germany were returned or under whose sovereignty such territories were placed, all historical, judicial, administrative and technical archives with the maps and diagrams which pertain to these areas.

PART VI: FINAL CLAUSES

Article 43

After this peace treaty comes into force Germany shall be free of all obligations under international treaties and agreements which were concluded by the government of the German Democratic Republic and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany prior to the coming into force of this treaty and which stand in contradiction to the provisions of the peace treaty.

Article 44

Every conflict about the interpretation or fulfilment of this treaty which cannot be settled by direct diplomatic negotiation or in some other manner by agreement among the partners to the dispute shall be submitted to a Commission consisting of representatives from the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. In case no settlement to the dispute can be adjusted in the Commission within 2 months, and if the parties to the dispute can not reach agreement on any other method to settle it, it shall be submitted to a Commission consisting of one representative of each party to the dispute and one further member to be chosen by agreement of both sides from the citizens of a third country.

Article 45—48

(These articles deal with the ratification and depositing of and accession to the treaty, etc.)

FEAR STALKS THE RUHR

West German Paper Reports on Coal Crisis

Everything is covered with soot. The whole area, the cities, the houses and the children playing with their hula-hoops. The streets on this Saturday morning are as quiet as on a Sunday afternoon. The mine gates are locked and the huge wheels of the shaft towers are motionless. There is no work today . . .

The Ruhr is seething; the Ruhr is stalked by fear; in the Ruhr a dangerous spark is glowing which, if it catches fire, can cause an explosion which will be heard in all Germany.

The demigod of the German workers, till now the miner, has lost the butter from his bread. Not a few miners yelled to me above the noise of the winding-shafts, "We want to see some red flags . . ."

Koslowski is not his real name. But he made me swear at least five times for God's sake not to mention his real name. "Otherwise I'll get my papers tomorrow." He means that he would be fired immediately (without notice). And Koslowski is frightened of that — just as his 450,000 fellow miners in the whole of the Ruhr area.

Koslowski is afraid that, having already taken away the butter from his bread, they will also take the margarine away; that they will throw him out of the mine and then out of his flat. And then he will be standing with his family in the street, after having slaved eight years at the "face", after having contracted silicosis already so that his breathing rattles at night like an old man, although he is only 27.

We are sitting in his living room in a brand-new miners' settlement near Essen. The homes look so pleasant that the old red miners' cottages next to them, where the miners lived thirty and fifty years ago, look in comparison like rabbit hutches. Everything in Koslowski's flat is new. The solid furniture of the living room resembles that of the other miners in the settlement like peas in a pod: a couch, above it a cheap oil painting, a dining-table with four chairs, two armchairs, a floor-lamp, a television set. In the kitchen is a refrigerator. Of course, there is also a vacuum-cleaner. There are still instalments to pay on everything. The miner has become solid bourgeois.

Koslowski points to all these splendours, looks at his wife and child and says, "That's why I'm afraid." And then he bursts into a stream of accusation, bitterness and fear, aided by angry remarks from his wife, enough to alarm any staunch adherent of the German "economic miracle".

"They want to put the pressure on us, the swine," Koslowski says gloomily.

"Who are the swine?" I ask.

"I don't know", he answers. "We don't any of us know any more. We only know that the mine-owner has us in his power now. We used to tell the foreman, 'You can kiss our . . .' Today we say politely three times 'Good morning' to him. We have to crawl. The management these days is always quick to say, 'If you don't like it — here are your papers. You can get ready to leave your flat, too.' We have to say 'Yes, sir' to everything. We're sore, sore as blazes, but we can't do anything . . ."

Koslowski, like almost all the Ruhr miners, is working short time. Since February there have been many more than two million missed shifts. That adds up to lots of money.

But the miners and the experts are predicting, "The depression is only beginning to be a depression".

This is what the missed shifts mean to Koslowski and his fellow-miners. As face-workers they earn about 25 marks (just over £2) per shift. There are 25 shifts a month, that means 625 marks (about £52). If they miss three or four shifts, which is becoming the average, then it means 75 to 100 marks less a month. That is much more serious than it appears at first glance.

Mrs. Koslowski does not know any more how she will pay the instalments. She still has to pay, every month, 88 marks for the furniture, 28 marks for the television set, and 12 marks for the refrigerator. These are "musts", otherwise they will be taken away again. She must also pay the monthly rent of 52 marks plus the gas and electricity bills and the trade union dues. When she has paid all that, she has less than 300 marks for food, clothing, the shoemaker, and the hairdresser. And not a mark for the "pleasures" of life.

"What do you do then, Mrs. Koslowski?"

"Tear my hair", she answers, "and then count every penny. We don't eat butter anymore, only the cheapest margarine . . . I give my husband only the cheapest kinds of sausage for his sandwiches, although he should eat well because of his heavy work. We've taken all the bulbs out of the lamps except for one of 25 watts. Our child needs clothing, but all we can afford is a gym-suit. For Christmas he got cheap plastic toys for 1 mark and 20 pfennigs."

MINERS FIGHT BACK

Bonn, January 20th:

Coal dumps are still growing in the Ruhr. In December 500,000 tons were added and in January the amount was expected to be greater.

•

Bochum, January 16th:

The mining company "Constantin der Grosse" decided to shut down the oldest of their three coking plants on March 31st.

•

Dusseldorf, January 21st:

The Executive Board of the Miners' Union called for unity in the coming union elections on the Ruhr: "The elections take place at a difficult time. The mining industry is experiencing a crisis worse than ever before. 13,000,000 tons of coal were piled up last year alone. Almost, 3,000,000 shifts were missed and 58,000,000 marks in wages were lost by the miners. The future does not look any better . . . Energy and determination are necessary to guard our rights."

•

Bochum, January 26th:

Eighty thousand miners demonstrated yesterday in protest against short-time work and lay-offs in a rally called by the Miners' Union. The speeches and the attitude of the assembled miners reflected the wide-spread unrest caused by the continuing crisis on the Ruhr.

Mr. Koslowski continues. "I certainly would like to have a drink occasionally. I like a drop now and then, but I haven't seen one for half a year. Not even a glass of beer on pay-day."

Mrs. Koslowski had gone into another room and returned with her arms full. She puts her load down on the polished table and says, "Now I'll show you something. Listen; my mother lives in the East Zone. I've always sent her packages through the years. But this time I wrote her; we are not having it so good anymore, why don't you send us something this time. And this is what she sent us. Look at them carefully — you'll see that they were all sent from the East Zone."

She shows me everything, piece for piece; chocolate, sweets, apples, slippers, perlon stockings, a shirt for her husband and a suit for the boy.

"Go ahead", Mrs. Koslowski says, "try the sweets. They may not be wonderful, but they do taste good."

Koslowski murmurs, "We won't go hungry, at any rate. I'd steal something before that happened."

"Curse it all", Mrs. Koslowski cries out, "I'm still a young woman. I don't know when I last visited the cinema. I can't go to the hairdresser any more, I can't ever buy a new dress, we never go out at all. I want to get around among people again."

"Then let's go out together", I said to the Koslowskis. "I'm inviting you."

The pub was at the corner. A miner's pub. Although it was Saturday night, the room was half empty. I walked towards a table, but Koslowski led me to an empty room in the back.

"Why here?" I asked.

"It's better this way", he explained. "If people from the mine come here and see that I'm talking to a stranger, who knows what they'll think. And if they find out that you're a journalist, rumours will go around that Koslowski informed him, and then I'll get my papers."

So we went into the back room. He ordered beer and schnaps, his wife ordered malt-beer and liqueur. They drank it down so quickly that I well believed that they had not had anything to drink for months.

"If things get any worse, I'm going to quit the trade union. They've become unnecessary and lost their strength, and it's a pity to waste the dues money. I used to earn 800 and 1000 marks a month, counting overtime. And now . . ."

Previously, he used to play Skat (the most popular German card game) Saturday evenings for a tenth of a penny, but that is impossible now. Now he must play Rummy with his wife. The so-called "economic miracle" now seems to mean that the captains of industry in the Ruhr area now find the big Mercedes cars too "humble" and drive in Rolls Royces, while the miners, who after all were not the least important factor in bringing about the "economic miracle", are working short time.

I paid the bill and drove thoughtfully to my hotel. That was one of the miners, once the best paid of German workers, the one-time kings of the Ruhr area. The miners, who were treated like film stars after 1945, who were lured to the mines with all kinds of inducements, who make life worth living for us today.

The miner was always the pampered worker of the "economic miracle". Houses were built for him, vacation homes, he received bonuses and ever higher pay. His face was scrutinised for the smallest frown. Otherwise he was likely to throw his tools down and quit.

It seemed impossible to draw enough miners to the Ruhr, from all parts of Germany and even of Europe.

"Once", the miners now say, "they crawled up our backsides, now they kick us there."

Yes, that is the way it is! Something has gone wrong. The newspapers of the trade unions write about "wide-spread fear for livelihood" and have big headlines: "Coal-piles in the Ruhr area are a warning sign" or "Mass lay-offs are not the answer" or "Views of the mine-owners are false, dangerous and antisocial".

Adenauer coined the phrase: "Our main wealth is coal." But our main wealth is now lying around, in dangerously high mountainous piles. No-one wants it.

The reasons are briefly the following. Coal imported from America and the better competitive position of fuel oil are at the bottom of the dangerous situation in the Ruhr. We have contracts binding us over a long period to import 38 million tons of coal from America. And the consumption of fuel oil rose from 2 million tons in 1955 to over 6 million tons in 1958. Those are the causes for the dilemma in the coal areas.

The Ruhr, where 10 million people live, a third of whom owe their living to the coal mines, is menaced by a big turn to the radical left.

The Office for the Defence of the Constitution (political police agency) has already reported increased agitation by the Communists. But one does not require an Office for Defence of the Constitution to see the storm warnings in the Ruhr area. The miner feels that he has been betrayed by the German "economic wonder". He feels that he is being ground under foot.

A tavern in Kray-Sued, a suburb of Essen. Sunday afternoon. I order a cutlet.

"Is business bad, since the miners have been having a bad time?" I ask the tavern-keeper.

"And how", he answers, "but if you want to talk to miners, there are some . . .", and he points to another table where eight or ten men are seated. I was soon in conversation with them.

"Listen to me", said one of them, "and I'll tell you how they treat the miners today. I missed three weeks of work recently because of stomach trouble. Later I had an accident and missed three weeks again. When I returned, the boss sent for me and said, 'You've been sick for six weeks.'

"'Yes', I answered, 'that happens sometimes. I couldn't help being sick.'

'Yes you could', he said. 'I'll have to give you a warning. If it happens too often, we will have to fire you.'"

"Aren't you exaggerating?" I asked the miner. "They can't do that."

A young miner answered me. "A rock fell on my head in the pit and I was sick for fourteen weeks. When I got back, the boss called me in and said. "If that happens again, we will

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

have to fire you. You are prone to accidents."

I checked on these stories later. They are without doubt true. A miner who has had several accidents is labelled as "accident-prone" and may be fired.

The first miner spoke up again. "The bosses are now baring their fists. What can we do, though? I've worked eleven years in the pit and have a flat owned by the mines. If I'm fired, I've got bad luck in every way. Once I would have said, 'Well, I'll try another mine.' But not a single pit is hiring now. That would mean no job and no flat. So what am I doing now? I'm crawling. We're all crawling."

I looked for a miner who could give me an objective picture of the over-all situation. I found him. His name is Kurt A. and he is member of the factory council at one of the larger mines.

It seems that the worst hit by the depression on the Ruhr is not the face worker with his piece work but the worker paid by the day. And sixty percent of the miners are paid by the day and do not earn more than 330 to 350 marks a month before taxes. When taxes, instalments and other items are paid off, and then three shifts are missed, which means more than 40 marks, or the equivalent of the rent money, then the miner is hit so hard that he can find no solution to his problems. That is the case with many thousands of day-workers today. And there lies the danger in the situation.

I asked A. for his opinion of the situation.

He thought for a moment. "The loss of pay is serious", he said, "if you consider that every mark was budgeted to meet living costs and to pay for the items which most of the young miners had already bought. But even worse, I believe, is the psychological and political side of this depression. People are becoming more radical. In our settlement, where only miners live, about 60% always voted for the Social Democrats and the rest mostly for the Christian Democrats, because things were going well. But I don't like to think whom the miners would vote for today, if they could vote for those whom they would like to vote for."

Then he said, "If they can invest thousands of millions for rearmament, why can't they invest a few thousand millions in the mining industry?"

His last words were, "The miners were quiet so long as they were getting enough dough. Now they're not getting the dough any more, we won't be responsible if one day they start building barricades."

Nowadays the wives of the miners are always waiting at the pit gates on pay day to collect the mens' pay, so that no-one can be tempted into a pub.

In the canteen of the mine "Unser Fritz" in Wanne-Eickel 2000 bottles of milk used to be sold daily. Today 1000 are sold.

The pawnshops in Essen are now receiving ten percent more pledges than a few months ago; in Bochum it is twelve percent; in Duisburg twenty percent. In a pawnshop in Gelsenkirchen I met a woman pawning her television set in order at least to pay the instalments on her washing machine. The pawned goods are now ever more frequently valuable items; cameras, television sets, radios, washing machines and even motor bikes.

Many miners' wives are looking for jobs as scrubwomen, at least for half-day work. It has become possible again to find maids in the Ruhr area.

In the mining settlements it has become a common sight to see miners loading potatoes or shoveling coal after their shifts are over; they want to earn a few marks extra.

The accident rates are growing; the workers are cutting coal full speed, regardless of losses.

The warnings to the miners come from all sides; do not buy too much; do not buy anything on instalment; think of the depression which is coming in 1959! Think of the unsold piles of coal, 14 million tons of it already. Think of the 14,000 who have been laid off and of the 100,000 who are slated to be laid off.

One news item is a joyful one; the Soviet Zone (Democratic Germany, ed.) is buying a million tons of Ruhr coal.

The President of the National Association of German Industry, Fritz Berg, announced seriously that we must look at the coal problem, which is causing so many worries in the Federal Republic today, from the "world political standpoint".

An expert on the Ruhr once said; "The miner is a Communist in the pit, a Social Democrat on the way home and at home, with his wife, he votes for the Christian Democrats."

But there could be a change here ...

(Condensed from an article by Manfred Luetgenhorst in the "Muenchner Illustrierte" — "Munich Illustrated" — of January 3rd 1959)

GERMAN COMMUNISTS MARK 40th BIRTHDAY

The 40th Anniversary of the founding of the German Communist Party was the theme of numerous celebrations in the German Democratic Republic in the New Year's period.

The Communist Party was founded at the end of 1918 when the old "Spartacus Bund", led by such well-known opponents of World War I as Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, broke from the Social Democrats who had not opposed the war and who compromised with the old bosses during the revolution in Germany at that time.

Wilhelm Pieck, himself one of the founders of the German Communist Party and today President of the German Democratic Republic wrote an article in the newspaper "Neues Deutschland" containing his reflections on the history of the party.

He recalled how Liebknecht had described the way "he and the little troop of self-sacrificing revolutionary comrades had thrown themselves into the fight against the war and war hysteria. For that they had been 'yelled down, persecuted and imprisoned'."

Pieck then described the beginnings of the new Party, whose birth he called a "turning-point in the history of the German labour movement."

"The Communist Party was the first party in Germany to mobilise the people against the rising danger of fascism and new military adventures. No other party in Germany fought so consistently and with so many sacrifices ... against the Hitler dictatorship and its preparations for war."

After describing the unification of the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party in East Germany in 1946 to form the present Socialist Unity Party, President Pieck described how the German Democratic Republic had the goal today of proving "the superiority of the socialist over the capitalist system, thereby making the forces for peace stronger than the forces for war. That is the best way we can fulfil the testament of those who founded the Communist Party 40 years ago..."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Every year, as carnival time comes round, the newspapers in West Germany, particularly in the Rhineland and Bavaria, where the carnival is most at home, produce special crazy editions rather similar to the "Rag Mags" brought out occasionally by some British universities. Some of these special editions are simply filled with cheese-cake and mother-in-law jokes, and deserve no further attention, but several of them manage to maintain a high standard of parody. Unfortunately, parodies of the renazification process in West Germany have a tendency to catch up with themeslves and bite their own tails: the carnival edition of the respected liberal "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" in Munich, for instance, last year featured a bright little news item announcing that the "Association of Former Judges and Prosecutors of the (Nazi) People's Courts" had struck a special medal to be awardede to persons who have won special merit in the field of renazification. The news item continued: "The Association has protested to the Federal Ministry of Justice against the fact that four former judges in People's Courts are still working in subordinate posts . . ."

This item is no longer funny. During the past year, a number of former People's Courts judges, people responsible for handing down death sentences on hundreds of anti-nazis, have in fact been promoted. For further news from this sector, see the article on West German judges on page 27 of this issue.

This year's carnival issue of the "Frankfurter Rundschau" takes this difficulty into account. A little note on the front page states: "We can provide no guarantee that our carnival jokes have not already been overtaken by the march of time." One of the features of the issue is the radio programme for a proposed special new radio station for the West German army. Here are a few of the items quoted in the programme:

"11.55 The first atomic cannon of the Federal Army shoots a volley welcoming in Sunday.

14.00 Children's Hour: "The Werewolf and the Seven Hand Grenades".

15.00 "Three Years Federal Army — And Not Yet Marched in Anywhere". A critical review by Helmut Damerau, editor of the "German Soldiers' Newspapers".

17.00 "The Fuehrer Was a Great Commander". Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz reads from his memoirs.

And if we don't look out, a radio programme very much like this is liable to go on the air any time now.

•

I hear that British dramatist John Osborne ("Look Back in Anger"), cross-examined recently by a reporter from the London "Daily Sketch", retaliated by asking the reporter how he felt about working on a paper "with a staff who can't write for people who can't read". Anyone who has had the misfortune to see a copy of the "Daily Sketch" will agree with the crack. My excuse for reprinting this angry-young-mannism is not to ask whether readers of GERMAN REPORT can read, but to ask readers whether we write understandably enough. What drew my attention to the subject was a conversation I had a few days ago with a young Englishman who happened to be visiting Berlin. He seemed to be alert, intelligent, and normally well informed on current events, but when, in the course of the conversation, I casually talked about the Reichstag Fire and made some reference to the Weimar Republic, he simply looked blank. (Definitions: Reichstag Fire — burning of the German Parliament by the nazis in February 1933 to frame-up German progressives and open the way for Hitler's reign of terror. Weimar Republic — Germany between fall of the Kaiser in 1918 and the rise of Hitler in 1933.)

I realised that these were things which had happened long before my young visitor had been born, but probably not so long ago that they were in the history books he had used at school: and the thought came to me that GERMAN REPORT may often make passing references to things which seem clear enough to us, but which are merely puzzling to younger readers. So if you note something of this sort which you do not understand, please drop us a line; it will help us to do better in future.

A second cause of possible confusion may arise from the fact that a lot of the material which we publish in GERMAN REPORT takes the form of translations of documents and background material like the draft peace treaty with Germany to which we devote so much space in the current issue. In translating documents and official statements there is always the problem of sticking as closely as possible to the original wording, and at the same time making them clear and readable in English. There is for instance the useful little French word "détente", meaning the ending of strained relations, generally between states. This is obviously a word which needs at least three English words to express it effectively: but is it generally understandable?

A second example is the word "revanchist" meaning in general "revenge-seeking", and particularly applied today to those circles in West Germany which have not accepted the defeat of Germany in the Second World War, and would like to have another go. I should like readers' opinions on these two words.

And while we are on the subject, what about "junctim", a term from legal phraseology which is used all the time by the West German press in the specific sense of the refusal of the West German Government to have anything to do with any proposals for détente in Germany (for "détente" see above) until so-called free elections have been held. Apart from writing an essay on the subject I can see no way round "junctim", unless I replace it by another Latin phrase "Conditio sine qua non", which is longer but scarcely more understandable.

So if you have any bright suggestions about these subjects, or any comments on the language and general readableness of GERMAN REPORT, do please let us know.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking those readers who let us know from time to time all about the frightful typographical errors they have discovered in the paper. I could evade responsibility by blaming it all on the printers, but this would not be fair: after all they are setting up type in a foreign language. I can only assure you that we are making a concerted drive against these misprints: and I draw a certain consolation from the fact that even the august columns of "The Times" and "The New York Times" are by no means free of them.

•

Hula hoops went on sale in the shops of the German Democratic Republic at the end of January. This short item of information can be interpreted in so many dozens of ways, according to your point of view, that I shall just throw it in your laps and leave it there.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.